1	2	3
18.	Nizamabad	79.8
19.	Ongele-Parkasam	99.1
20.	Rangareddy	186.4
21.	Sangareddy	112.9
22.	Saikakulam	96.4
23.	Vijaywada (Krishna)	114.2
24.	Vishakhapatanam (C)	127.3
25.	Vishakhapatham (T+U)	90.3
26.	Vishakhapatnam (Gujuwaka)	8.5
27.	Vizianagaram	81.3
28.	Waranagal	142.9
29.	U.E.I.G.B. Hyderabad	58.3
30.	U.E.I.G.B. Tirupati	28.1
31.	U.E.I.G.B. Waltair	18.0
	TOTAL	3103.2

Reaction of Trade Unions of VRS

2216. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news-items "VRS for PSUs condemned by TUS" in the Statesman, Calcutta dated the 15th June, 1998;

(b) whether circulars have been issued by BPMEL Management threatening suspension of operation in units unless employees opt for VRS, as alleged;

(c) whether this was brought to the notice of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action taken by this Ministry to protect the rights of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By a notice dated May 22, 1998, management of the company has reminded the employees that the tenure of voluntary retirement scheme would expire on 31.5.98 and would not be extended further. The management had also informed the employees of the company that operation would remain suspended from 1.6.98.

(c) and (d) A separation scheme was issued by the management on the basis of the approval of the Government for a period of 3 months. The scheme was a special gesture on the part of the Government of mitigate the sufferings of the employees in view of the winding up order of the company by the BIFR.

Payment of Provident Fund to Retired Employees of Private Sector Companies

2217. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases involving payment of the amount of Provident Fund to the retired employees of private sector companies, pending as on 31st December, 1997;

(b) the range of pendency period;

(c) the reasons for the pendency;

(d) the steps taken by Government for making payment at the earliest;

(e) whether any time limit has been fixed for the payment of Provident Fund amounts; and

(f) if not, whether Government propose to fix such a limit to avoid hardship to the retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 96,601.

(b) to (f) According to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) there were 83,186 claims pending for less than two months, 13080 claims pending between two to six months and 335 pending over six months. The provident fund claims, complete in all respects, are required to be settled within 30 days from the date of receipt in the EPFO. However, sometimes settlement of claims is delayed due to incomplete application forms, variation in signature, non-receipt of returns from the employer, etc. In order to expedite settlement of provident fund claims more PF offices nearer to